



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

DATE: December 7, 2011

TO: Chairman Umberg and Authority Board Members

FROM: Jeff Abercrombie, Area Program Manager

RE: Agenda Item # 5 - Fresno to Bakersfield Section Supplemental Alternatives Analysis

Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to summarize the investigation of proposed changes to the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report for the Fresno to Bakersfield Section (June 3, 2010) and two Supplemental AA Reports issued in September 2010 and May 2011.

The proposed changes relate to the investigation of a new alternative alignment and station location west of the City of Hanford.

Background

In response to stakeholder, agency, and public feedback on the high-speed train alignment that bypasses Hanford to the east, the Authority is re-introducing an additional alternative route that bypasses Hanford to the west, along with an additional alternative station location to serve the Kings/Tulare region on that portion of the Fresno to Bakersfield section. This alternative route – the Hanford West Bypass Alternative – was previously identified in the 2005 Statewide Program EIR/EIS; including this alternative is consistent with input from regulatory agencies. Potentially feasible alignments that pass west of Hanford have been studied in order to identify the most viable alignment and station location that both minimize environmental impacts and provide a feasible and cost-effective option for the Authority.

With Board concurrence, the alignment alternative and station location recommended in the Supplemental AA Report (attached) will be included in a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report / Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) that is expected to be ready for public release in the spring of 2012.

Staff Recommendations

The staff recommends the Board to approve the following:

Alignment Alternative

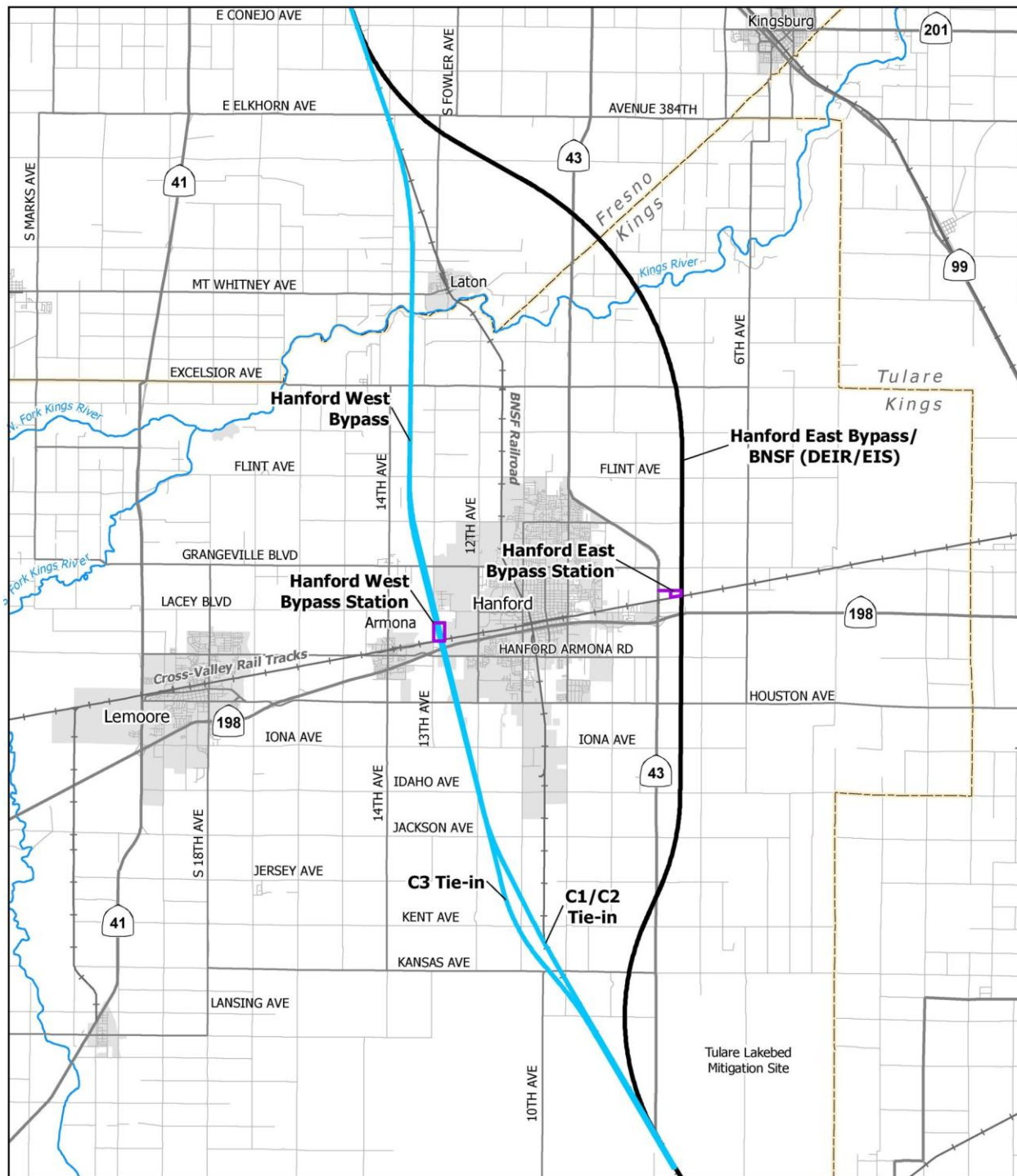
- ✓ Add the new Hanford West Bypass Alternative (HW) depicted in Figure ES-1 to the current set of alignment alternatives (including the current Hanford East Bypass Alternative) to be evaluated in the Fresno to Bakersfield Revised DEIR / Supplemental DEIS.

Station Location

- ✓ Add the new Hanford West station location depicted in Figure ES-1 to the current set of station locations (including the Hanford East location) to be evaluated in the Fresno to Bakersfield Revised DEIR / Supplemental DEIS.

Attachments:

- ✓ Figure ES-1
- ✓ Supplemental AA Report



PRELIMINARY DRAFT/SUBJECT TO CHANGE - HST ALIGNMENT IS NOT DETERMINED
Data source: URS, 2011

December 5, 2011

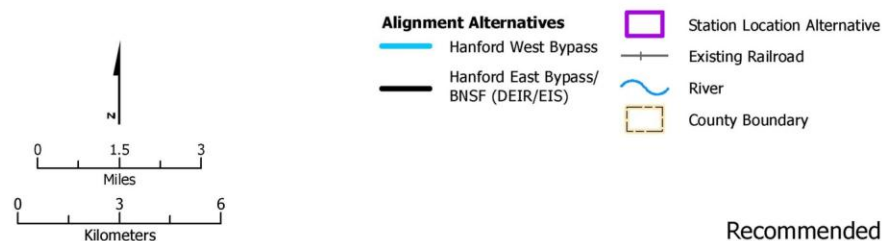


Figure ES-1
Recommended Alignment and Station Alternatives